

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A white balance processing apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on a taken image based on a set white balance value;

non-volatile storage means for storing white balance values set for the taken image obtained in past image taking and employed in said white balance processing;

custom value setting means for setting a white balance value employed in the past, stored in the storage means as a custom white balance value for the taken image by a new picture taking;

detected value setting means for detecting and setting a white balance value to be set to said white balance processing means from the taken image;

correction means for correcting said detected white balance value; and

corrected detected value setting means for setting said corrected detected white balance value to said white balance processing means;

wherein said storage means additionally stores said corrected detected white balance value set and employed at said white balance processing means as a white balance value employed in the past.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

selection means for selecting one or the other of said custom value setting means and said detected value setting means as means for setting said white balance value for the taken image; and

forced setting means for, if said detected value setting means is selected by the selection means, switching from said detected value setting means to said custom value setting means only during a specifically designated period.

4. (Previously Presented) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

display means for displaying taken images processed of said white balance processing with using said set white balanced value; and

register means for causing the white balance value employed in the white balance processing of the taken image displayed on said display means to be stored to said storage means based on an instruction from a photographer.

5. (Previously Presented) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

 preset value storage means for previously storing preset white balance values that are white balance values set correspondingly to specific light sources; and

 corrected preset value setting means for correcting said preset white balance values by said correction means and setting ~~said~~ the corrected preset white balance value ~~for~~ to said white balance processing means;

 wherein said storage means stores said corrected preset white balance value set and employed at said white balance processing as said white balance value employed in the past.

6. (Previously Presented) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising:

 retaining means for retaining a white balance value employed in the white balance processing at said white balance processing means; and

 register means for registering the white balance value retained at the retaining means to said storage means based on an instruction from a photographer.

7. (Previously Presented) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said retaining means retains a plurality of white balance values employed in said white balance processing, and wherein said register means selects a predetermined white balance value from said plurality of white balance values and registers it to said storage means based on said instruction from a photographer.

8. (Currently Amended) A white balance processing apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on a taken image based on a set white balance value;

reproduction means for reading recorded image data for reproduction;

selection means for selecting desired image data from a reproduced image;

non-volatile storage means for storing a white balance value corresponding to said selected image data and employed in white balance processing of the image data; and

setting means for setting said white balance value stored in said storage means[[],] as the white balance value for white balance processing on the taken image by a new picture taking, a white balance value corresponding to said selected image data and employed in white balance processing of the image data.

9. (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

setting enabling means for enabling a setting of said white balance value only when there is a coincidence between presence/absence of flash emission for the taken image and presence/absence of flash emission for image taken at the time of acquiring the white balance value set for the white balance processing of said taken image.

10. (Currently amended) A white balance processing method comprising the steps of:

storing a white balance value employed in white balance processing of a past taken image into a non-volatile memory;

setting said stored white balance value employed in the past as a custom white balance value for the taken image by a new picture taking; and

effecting white balance processing on the taken image based on said set custom white balance value;

wherein said stored white balance value employed in the past is a white balance value detected from the taken image subjected to processing in the past and corrected based on an instruction from a photographer, and is the white balance value employed in white balance processing of the taken image.

11. (Previously Presented) The white balance processing method according to claim 10, wherein said stored white balance value employed in the past is a white balance value read out of a previously stored preset white balance value and corrected based on said instruction from the photographer and is the white balance value employed in the white balance processing of the taken image.

12. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable white balance processing instructions including the procedures of:

storing a white balance value employed in white balance processing of a past taken image into a non-volatile memory;

setting said stored white balance value employed in the past as a custom white balance value for the taken image by a new picture taking; and

effecting white balance processing on the taken image based on said set custom white balance value;

wherein said stored white balance value employed in the past is a white balance value detected from the taken image subjected to processing in the past and corrected based on an instruction from a photographer, and is the white balance value employed in white balance processing of the taken image.

13. (Withdrawn) A white balance processing apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on an image to be taken;

color histogram processing means for effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of white balance by the white balance processing means; and

display means for displaying histograms by color components obtained by the color histogram processing means.

14. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said color histogram processing means effects histogram processing by color components by separating said image to be taken of an entire image frame and said image to be taken of a specific regional portion set within the image frame.

15. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said display means displays by color components the histogram concerning said entire image frame and the histogram concerning the specific regional portion by said color histogram processing means so that they can be compared with each other.

16. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13 further comprising:

display control means for effecting control to display said histograms by color components on said display means when a setting screen for setting white balance is displayed on said display means.

17. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said display means concurrently displays information concerning adjusting conditions of white balance of said white balance processing means.

18. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said information concerning the adjusting conditions of white balance comprises information indicating types of mode of white balance that can be selected.

19. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said information concerning the adjusting conditions of white balance comprises information concerning ratio about a specific color component processed of said histogram processing.

20. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said display means in addition concurrently displays said image to be taken.

21. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said display means additionally displays a white balance detecting region on said image to be taken.

22. (Withdrawn) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said color histogram processing means effects histogram processing by three color components of RGB.

23. (Withdrawn) A white balance processing method comprising the steps of:

effecting white balance processing on an image to be taken;
effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of said white balance processing; and
displaying histograms by color components obtained by said histogram processing together with said image to be taken.

24. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable white balance processing instructions of:

effecting white balance processing with respect to an image to be taken;

effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of said white balance processing; and

displaying histograms by color components obtained by said histogram processing together with said image to be taken.

25. (Withdrawn) A digital camera, including a white balance processing apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on an image to be taken;

color histogram processing means for effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of white balance by the white balance processing means; and

display means for displaying histograms by color components obtained by the color histogram processing means.

26. (Currently Amended) A digital camera, including a white balance processing apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on a taken image based on a set white balance value;

non-volatile storage means for storing white balance values set for the taken image obtained at the time of past image taking and employed in said white balance processing;

custom value setting means for setting a white balance value employed in the past, stored in the storage means as a custom white balance value for the taken image by a new picture taking;

detected value setting means for detecting and setting a white balance value to be set to said white balance processing means from the taken image;

correction means for correcting said detected white balance value; and

corrected detected value setting means for setting said corrected detected white balance value to said white balance processing means;

wherein said storage means additionally stores said corrected detected white balance value set to and employed in said white balance processing means as a white balance value employed in the past.

27. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 26, wherein the white balance processing apparatus further comprises:

setting enabling means for enabling a setting of said white balance value only when there is a coincidence between presence/absence of flash emission for the taken

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image and presence/absence of flash emission for image taken at the time of acquiring the white balance value set for the white balance processing of said taken image.